## FORD EDUCATIONAL LIBRARY REGIONAL GEOGRAPHY Volume V.

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MAIN TITLE

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SUBJECT.

### THE BIG TREES OF CALIFORNIA.

#### SUB-TITLES:

- 1. The oldest and largest of living things in the world are the Sequoia Washingtoniana, the Big Trees of California. These giants are preserved in several National Parks.
- 2. John Muir, father to the Big Trees, says there are more than a million of these wonderful trees in our parks. A diameter of 20 feet and a height of 275 feet is common for the mature trees.
- 3. The Sequoia has few branches and those are near the top. Some of the branches are six feet in diameter.
- 4. The Big Trees are over 4000 years old. The rings of annual growth are easily counted to prove their age. The stump is large enough for a ball room floor. Trees that have fallen have been used for a dwelling.
- 5. So priceless are these wonderful trees that the United States government appropriated a large sum to save them from destruction. The National Geographical Society added \$20,000 to preserve these trees.
- 6. The largest of these giant trees is General Sherman, which is 279 feet high and 102 feet in circumference.
- 7. Near the General Sherman tree is a lodge for the keeper and visitors. The General Grant tree stands nearby. These two giant trees are the oldest of living things on earth.
- 8. The Sequoia has a powerful stately trunk with cinnamon brown bark. It rises without a brank within 100 feet of the ground. The foliage is dense and feathery. The wood is almost indestructible by decay. These trees are twins.
- 9. The Confederate Group of Big Trees is clustered about General Jackson as a leader.
- 10. The Grizzly Giant was so called because of its rugged trunk. It is more than 85 feet in circumference.
- 11. Some of the trees are large enough to accommodate a stage coach and in one place a tunnel for the road has been cut through a tree.
- 12. The Sequoia is the masterpiece of all forest trees. It is a living witness of human progress.

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